

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO *et al.*,

Debtors.¹

X

:

:

PROMESA

Title III

:

Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)

:

(Jointly Administered)

:

X

**INITIAL PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING OMNIBUS OBJECTION
OF (I) FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD, ACTING THROUGH
ITS SPECIAL CLAIMS COMMITTEE, AND (II) THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF
UNSECURED CREDITORS PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY CODE SECTION 502
AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 3007, TO CLAIMS FILED OR ASSERTED BY HOLDERS
OF CERTAIN COMMONWEALTH GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

February 15 2019

Pursuant to the Order (the “Order”) of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the “District Court”), dated February 15, 2019, [Docket No. 5143], the following initial procedures will apply to the resolution of the *Omnibus Objection of the Financial Oversight and Management Board, Acting Through its Special Claims Committee, and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Section 502 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007, to Claims Filed or Asserted by Holders of Certain Commonwealth General Obligation Bonds*, dated January 14, 2019 [Docket No. 4784] (the “Objection”).²

¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor’s respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

² The full text of the Objection may be found on the Internet by using the following link:
<https://cases.primeclerk.com/puertorico/Home-DocketInfo?DocketSearchValue=4784>.

The Financial Oversight and Management Board, acting through its Special Claims Committee, and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (together, the “Objectors”) filed an Objection contending that all claims (the “Challenged GO Bond Claims”) that have been or may be asserted against the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the “Commonwealth”) on account of all general obligation bonds issued by the Commonwealth in or after 2012 (the “Challenged GO Bonds”) are invalid. Holders of Challenged GO Bonds are hereafter referred to as “Challenged GO Bondholders.”

1. Exclusivity of Procedures

These procedures shall be the exclusive means to participate in the litigation before the District Court of issues relating to the disallowance of Challenged GO Bond Claims on the grounds set forth in the Objection.

2. Notice of Participation

Any party in interest, including, without limitation, the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority (“AAFAF”), the Official Committee of Retired Employees of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (together with AAFAF, the “Title III Parties”), and any person or entity that holds a Challenged GO Bond, whether or not such person or entity is identified in Appendix I to the Objection, that wishes to participate in the litigation of the Objection must serve by email and file a notice of its intent to participate in such litigation (a “Notice of Participation”).

The Notice of Participation shall (a) indicate whether the party in interest who filed such notice (each, a “Participant”) supports or opposes the Objection; (b) provide the name, address and email address of the Participant and its counsel, if any; and (c), to the extent filed by a Challenged GO Bondholder, set forth (i) whether all or part of such Challenged GO Bonds were purchased on the secondary market, and (ii) the CUSIP numbers for such Challenged GO Bonds to the best of such Challenged GO Bondholder’s knowledge and belief, as of the date of such Notice of Participation (the “Notice Information”). The Notice of Participation shall cover all Challenged GO Bonds owned as of the date of such Notice of Participation or thereafter acquired by the Participant and shall not be limited to the specific CUSIP numbers listed. For the avoidance of doubt, a party in interest may submit a Notice of Participation individually and/or through an *ad hoc* group. A Notice of Participation submitted through an *ad hoc* group shall entitle each member of such *ad hoc* group to participate either individually or as part of the group, and each such member reserves the right to act individually from time to time in respect of any issue, argument, or proceeding. To the extent that an entity ceases to be a member of an *ad hoc* group that filed a Notice of Participation, such member may continue to participate in the litigation of the Objection in the same manner as a Participant that had filed a timely individual Notice of Participation; *provided however*, that such Participant will be bound by (i) any actions, arguments, statements or positions made or taken by such *ad hoc* group prior to the date on which the Participant ceased to be a member of such *ad hoc* group (the “Separation Date”), and (ii) any District Court orders applicable to members of such *ad hoc* group as of the Separation Date, in each case to the same extent, if any, that members of such *ad hoc* group would be bound by such actions, arguments, statements, positions or District Court orders. To the extent that an entity becomes a member of an *ad hoc* group after the Participation Deadline, such member shall

be covered by the Notice of Participation timely filed by the *ad hoc* group, *provided* that (i) such Notice of Participation shall be updated to include the Notice Information for the new group member, and (ii) if such member did not file its own timely Notice of Participation, such member shall have obtained, pursuant to paragraph 5 below, District Court approval to participate in the litigation, individually or as a member of the *ad hoc* group, upon a showing of good cause. Participants who file Notices of Participation that support the Objection shall collectively constitute "Joint Objectors," and parties that oppose the relief sought in the Objection shall collectively constitute the "Respondents."

Each Notice of Participation must be served by email on the "Notice Parties" identified in paragraph 8 below and filed electronically with the District Court pursuant to its Electronic Case Filing procedures. Participants without counsel may file the Notice of Participation by mailing or delivering it by hand to: The Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto, Room 150 Federal Building, 150 Carlos Chardon Avenue, San Juan, PR 00918-1767 the clerk's office of the District Court in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The deadline to file with the District Court and serve by email a Notice of Participation is April 16, 2019 (the "Participation Deadline"). For those parties that file with the District Court and serve by email Notices of Participation by the Participation Deadline, no substantive response to the Objection need be filed until a date set forth in any subsequent scheduling order entered by the District Court.

Subject to paragraph 5 below, any party that does not file a Notice of Participation will not receive notices of filings and events in the litigation and may not be allowed to substantively participate in the litigation absent permission granted by the District Court upon a showing of good cause, but may nevertheless have its rights affected by the outcome of the litigation. In particular, and subject to applicable appellate rights, if the District Court grants the Objection in whole or in part, claimants' recovery on account of the Challenged GO Bond Claims will be eliminated in whole or in part, and claimants will be forever barred from asserting such claims against the Commonwealth, from voting on any plan of adjustment filed in this Title III Case, and from participating in any distribution in this Title III Case on account of such claims arising from the Challenged GO Bonds and the Challenged GO Bond Claims. By filing a Notice of Participation, a claimant will have the opportunity to be heard on the merits of the Objection, will be entitled to receive notification of case events specific to the Objection, and will receive notice of opportunities to meet and confer with other parties concerning issues relating to the litigation of the Objection.

Nothing herein, nor the mere filing of a Notice of Participation by a person or entity that is not a holder of a Challenged Bond, shall operate to confer standing upon such person or entity to participate in the litigation of the Objection, and all rights to object to any person or entity's standing are preserved.

3. The Initial Proposal Exchange/ Recommendation

On the date that is five (5) days after the Participation Deadline, the Objectors shall file with the District Court a list of all parties that filed Notices of Participation, their counsel, and

whether such Participants are Joint Objectors or Respondents. Such list will be updated as necessary every thirty (30) days to reflect any late-filed or updated Notices of Participation.

Twenty-one (21) days after the Participation Deadline (the “Initial Proposal Exchange Deadline”), Joint Objectors and the Objectors, on the one hand, and Respondents (individually and/or through *ad hoc* groups), on the other, will simultaneously exchange proposals (the “Initial Proposals”) by email setting forth the procedures that will govern litigation of the Objection, including, without limitation, anticipated legal and factual disputes, the sequence and timing of discovery, anticipated dispositive motion practice and the timing thereof, and treatment of holders of Challenged GO Bonds who did not file Notices of Participation (the “Objection Litigation Procedures”). The Objectors will send by email the Initial Proposals to all parties who filed Notices of Participation, but such Initial Proposals will not be filed with the District Court. Parties will not be precluded from raising claims or defenses that are not included in the Initial Proposals.

During the twenty-one (21) day period following the Initial Proposal Exchange Deadline, the Objectors and the Participants shall meet and confer concerning the substance of the Initial Proposals in an effort to develop a joint recommendation regarding Objection Litigation Procedures for the District Court. The Objectors will convene the meet and confer session(s) and provide notice of any meeting(s) or phone conference(s) to all Participants. The Objectors and the Participants shall use reasonable efforts to develop a fully consensual recommendation with respect to Objection Litigation Procedures.

On the date that is twenty-one (21) days following the Initial Proposal Exchange Deadline, the Objectors shall cause to be filed with the District Court a recommendation concerning the proposed Objection Litigation Procedures (the “Recommendation”) and shall indicate which Participants support the Recommendation, and the Participants, if any, that object to such Recommendation. The Objectors shall have caused a draft of the Recommendation to have been sent by email to all Participants at least five (5) business days prior to filing the Recommendation; thereafter, Participants shall have four (4) business days to provide further input on the proposed Objection Litigation Procedures.

Any responses to the Recommendation must be filed with the District Court within seven (7) days of the filing of the Recommendation (the “Response Deadline”), and any replies to such responses must be filed within three (3) days following the Response Deadline (the “Reply Deadline”).

4. Litigation

A. District Court Status Conference

The Objectors will request that the District Court hold a status conference as soon as practicable after the Reply Deadline to discuss and decide matters set forth in the Recommendation and any responses and replies thereto, including without limitation:

- (i) the sequence and timing of any discovery;

- (ii) the extent to which joint briefs can or should be submitted;
- (iii) a briefing schedule; and
- (iv) any other matter that will contribute to the fair and efficient resolution of the issues raised in the Objection and the Notices of Participation.

B. Coordination

To the extent that the District Court determines that joint briefs can and should be submitted –

(a) The Objectors and any Joint Objector shall cooperate in good faith in order to file joint papers with respect to the Objection, and shall file separate papers only to the extent necessary to present or discuss issues, positions or arguments upon which they are unable to agree in good faith.

(b) Likewise, the Respondents shall cooperate in good faith to file joint papers with respect to the litigation of the Objection and shall file separate papers only to the extent necessary to present or discuss issues, positions or arguments upon which they are unable to agree in good faith.

With respect to discovery –

The Objectors and the Joint Objectors, on the one hand, and the Respondents, on the other hand, shall use reasonable efforts to coordinate the development of discovery that is requested from the other parties and to coordinate communications concerning such discovery.

5. Notices of Participation Submitted After the Participation Deadline

Any party that submits a Notice of Participation after the Participation Deadline, but at least thirty (30) days prior to a trial on the merits of the Objection, may participate in the litigation of the Objection by receiving notices of developments in the litigation and invitations to any meet and confer sessions among the parties to the litigation. Such party, however, shall be bound by any orders entered by the District Court (including any order granting a dispositive motion, such as a motion for summary judgment) and/or any agreements reached among the Objectors, Joint Objectors and Respondents prior to the submission of such Notice of Participation regarding the conduct of the litigation, including with respect to the matters set forth in paragraph 3 above. Moreover, absent permission granted by the District Court upon a showing of good cause, any party that fails to file a Notice of Participation, or that files a Notice of Participation after the Participation Deadline, shall be prohibited from filing separate pleadings, serving discovery, or being heard at any hearing on the Objection.

6. No Duty

No Respondent shall have a duty to any other Respondent or to any Challenged GO Bondholder who does not file a Notice of Participation.

7. Other Objections Permitted

The fact that the Objectors have objected to the Challenged GO Bond Claims shall not preclude (i) the Objectors or any party in interest from objecting to a Challenged GO Bond Claim on any basis not set forth in the Objection or to any other claim asserted by the Challenged GO Bondholder unrelated to the Challenged GO Bonds or (ii) a Title III Party from asserting additional grounds for objecting to the Challenged GO Bond Claims pursuant to a Notice of Participation.

8. The Following Persons are the "Notice Parties"

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